

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BOMBAY 0497 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI

INFO CALCUTTA/MADRAS 27 FEB 76.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0497

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: MRS. GANDHI'S MEETING WITH ACHARYA BHAVE FEBRUARY 24 IN
PAVNAR

1. RESULTS OF MRS. GANDHI'S MEETING WITH BHAVE CONTINUE TO BE HELD CLOSELY. JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED MRS. GANDHI TO PAVNAR TOLD CONGEN THEY HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO THE SKETCHY DETAILS RELEASED IN THE PRESS. SINCE MRS. GANDHI AND BHAVE DID MEET FOR AN HOUR, MOST OBSERVERS PRESUME THAT BHAVE KEPT HIS PROMISE TO SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER GORAY TO LAY OUT THE OPPOSITION VIEWPOINT TO MRS. GANDHI. AFTER THE MEETING BOTH MRS. GANDHI AND BHAVE FIRMLY DECLINED TO MAKE ANY COMMENTARY ON THEIR MEETING. BHAVE CALLED FOR PATIENCE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND STATED THAT HE WOULD HOLD A CONVOCATION OF 350 INTELLECTUALS SOMETIME IN MAY TO EVOLVE A "CONSENSUS" IN ORDER TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THE RULING PARTY AND ACHIEVE AN ACCOMMODATION.

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2. BEFORE GANDHI-BHAVE HAD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 17TH GORAY

DISCUSSED THE OPPOSITION POSITION AT LENGTH WITH BHAVE AND ON FEBRUARY 20TH NAVASHAKTI, A MARATHI DAILY ON THE FREE PRESS GROUP PUBLISHED A STATEMENT BY GORAY OUTLINING THE POSITION AS GIVEN TO BHAVE. THE ARTICLE STRESSED THE FOLLOWING POINTS: THE NEED TO FIGHT INJUSTICES, THE DESIRABILITY OF AN EARLY END TO THE EMERGENCY, THE DUTY OF INTELLECTUALS TO UPHOLD FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND, FINALLY, THE INEVITABILITY OF AN OPPOSITION IN A DEMOCRACY. GORAY TOLD NAVASHAKTI THAT BHAVE AGREED TO RAISE ALL THESE POINTS IN HIS MEETING WITH MRS. GANDHI.

3. GORAY TOLD A MEETING OF SOCIALIST PARTY WORKERS IN POONA ON FEBRUARY 19TH AT A "CONSENSUS OPPOSITION POSITION" WOULD EVENTUALLY BE SUBMITTED TO RMS. GANDHI BY BHAVE FOR CONSIDERATION. GORAY STATED THAT BHAVE ASSURED HIM IF MRS. GANDHI FAILED TO ACT ON THIS CONSENSUS THEN BHAVE AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN THE SARVODAYA MOVEMENT WOULD PROTEST BY OFFERING SATYAGRAHA. GORAY COMMENTED TO THE WORKERS MEETING THAT SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE IN SUCH A LARGE CONFERENCE OF INTELLECTUALS AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT BHAVE WOULD DO IF MRS. GANDHI FAILED TO RESPOND TO HIS SATYAGRAHA.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS LIKELY THAT BHAVE RAISED THE ISSUES OUTLINED BY GORAY, IT IS PROBABLY THAT MRS. GANDHI DID NOT REACT FAVORABLY TO THE PROPOSALS. AS NEW DELHI 2922 POINTS OUT, MRS. GANDHI UNDOUBTEDLY CAUTIONED BHAVE THAT THE USE OF SATYAGRAHA WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN BREAKING THE POLITICAL DEADLOCK. IT SEEMS THAT GORAY IS NOT REALLY VERY HOPEFUL ABOUT THE IMPRACTICAL AND SWEEPING CONSENSUS ENVISIONED BY BHAVE AT HIS PLANNED MEETING IN MAY OR THE THREATENED SATYAGRAHA IF MRS. GANDHI DOES NOT THEN REACT TO THE OPPOSITION VIEWPOINT. MRS. GANDHI THUS MAY WELL HAVE USED THE MEETING WITH BHAVE TO PRIVATELY UNDERLINE THE CONDITIONS FOR RECONCILIATION SHE GAVE IN HER PUBLIC ADDRESS IN AURANGABAD THAT SAME DAY.

COURTNEY

UNQUOTE.

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